

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 12490 261800Z

71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02

SPC-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DRC-01

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R 261714Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5112

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EEC, UK

SUBJECT: BBC TELEVISION PROGRAM ON THE CAP

1. IN ITS "MIDWEEK" PROGRAM ON OCTOBER 25, BBC TELEVISION DELVED INTO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY. THE PROGRAM SHOWED THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR THE UK TO CHANGE SOME OF THE FEATURES OF THE CAP THAT IT FINDS OBJECTIONABLE.

2. THE BBC'S SURVEY OF THE CAP, WHICH LASTED ABOUT A
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PAGE 02 LONDON 12490 261800Z

QUARTER OF AN HOUR, DID NOT SOFT-PEDAL THE ASPECTS THAT

ARE MOST TROUBLESOME FOR THE BRITISH PUBLIC. IT SHOWED TONS OF SURPLUS BUTTER STORED AT COMMUNITY EXPENSE IN BELGIAN WAREHOUSE, AND INTERVIEWED WORKERS FROM BRITISH CANE SUGAR FACTORIES WHO FELT THAT THEY HAD BEEN "STABBED IN THE BACK" BY THE FRENCH.

3. THE PROGRAM ALSO SHOWED THAT THE CAP IS UNPOPULAR IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COMMUNITY - EVEN AMONG FRENCH FARMERS. IT CONCLUDED ON A POSITIVE NOTE WITH AN INTERVIEW WITH EC COMMISSIONER LARDINOIS WHO SAID THAT HE WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE CAP IN ITS PRESENT FORM. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE REGULATIONS NOW IN FORCE, WHICH WERE DRAWN UP FOR A COMMUNITY OF SIX, ARE NOT NECESSARILY APPROPRIATE FOR A COMMUNITY OF NINE. THE "MIDWEEK" REPORTER NOTED THAT THE COMMISSION IS PUTTING THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON ITS PROPOSALS FOR A REVIEW OF THE CAP, WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED SHORTLY TO THE MEMBER STATES. ANNENBERG

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30 JUN 2005

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